



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

May 16, 2007

Exemption No. 9290
Regulatory Docket No. FAA-2007-28070

Ms. Nancy R. Vetere
UAV Flight Operations Manager
Aurora Flight Sciences Corporation
9950 Wakeman Drive
Manassas, VA 20110

Dear Ms. Vetere:

This letter is to inform you that we have granted your request for exemption. It transmits our decision, explains its basis, and gives you the conditions and limitations of the exemption, including the date it ends.

The Basis for Our Decision

On April 25, 2007, you petitioned the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of Aurora Flight Sciences Corporation (Aurora) for an exemption from §§ 91.9(b) and 91.203(a) and (b) of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR). That exemption, if granted, would allow Aurora to operate unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that do not carry and display the aircraft's airworthiness, certification, and registration documents required in part 91.

The FAA has determined that good cause exists for not publishing a summary of the petition in the Federal Register because the requested exemption would not set a precedent, and any delay in acting on this petition would be detrimental to Aurora.

The FAA has issued a grant of exemption in circumstances similar in all material respects to those presented in your petition. In Grant of Exemption No. 8607 (copy enclosed), the FAA found that it is unnecessary to carry and display the airworthiness, certification, and registration documents in unmanned aircraft systems for the operations described by the

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petitioner. The original intent of the subject regulation was to display the airworthiness and registration documents so they would be easily available to FAA inspectors and passengers.

Having reviewed your reasons for requesting an exemption, I find that—

- they don't differ materially from those presented by the petitioner in the enclosed grant of exemption;
- the reasons stated by the FAA for granting the enclosed exemption also apply to the situation you present; and
- a grant of exemption is in the public interest.

Our Decision

Under the authority contained in 49 U.S.C. 40113 and 44701, which the FAA Administrator has delegated to me, I hereby grant Aurora Flight Sciences Corporation an exemption from 14 CFR §§ 91.9(b) and 91.203(a) and (b) to the extent necessary to operate UAVs without carrying the airworthiness and registration documents required by part 91, subject to the conditions and limitations described below.

Conditions and Limitations

1. The documents required under §§ 91.9 and 91.203 must be available to the pilot in command of the UAVs any time the aircraft is operating.
2. Those documents required under § 91.9 or 91.203 must be made available within 10 days to any FAA, U.S. Department of Defense, or law enforcement official upon request.

This exemption terminates on May 31, 2009, unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

Sincerely,

/s/

John M. Allen

Acting Director, Flight Standards
Service

Enclosure